

No.	Date received	Name and Address	Summary of Testimony	Staff Comments
<i>Letters Received</i>				
1	12/9/12	Max A. van Balgooy 313 Twinbrook Pkwy Rockville, MD 20851	Supports Amendment. Suggest modification to boundaries to include Twinbrook and Shady Grove Metro Stations; and including Twinbrook Parkway.	Concur with expansion to include Twinbrook Parkway and Twinbrook Station. Shady Grove Metro is outside the City limits.
<i>Speakers at 12/10/12 Public Hearing</i>				
2	12/10/12	Eileen McGuckian, individual	Supports Amendment. Pride of Place; bring in visitors; state recognition; create single visitors' brochure with heritage resources and amenities.	Concur
3	12/10/12	Tom Kuehhas, Montgomery County Historical Society	Supports Amendment. A help to MCHS, so they can apply for grants from the state; additional marketing and promotion of Rockville.	Concur
4	12/10/12	Mary van Balgooy, Peerless Rockville	Supports Amendment. This is an effective program for promoting and rehabilitating heritage resources, and for educational programming. Good source of funding.	Concur
5	12/10/12	Craig Moloney [with Anita Neal Powell], Historic District Commission	HDC supports Amendment. Provides opportunities for the City and non-profit organizations. Also loan program for businesses. Help from Heritage Montgomery. Will benefit our residents.	Concur

From: Max van Balgooy <max.vanbalgooy@gmail.com>
 To: mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov
 Cc: Denise@SteppingStonesShelter.org, Mary van Balgooy <director@peerlessrockville.org>
 Date: 12/09/2012 03:31 PM
 Subject: Support for Heritage Area participation and expanding boundaries

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am requesting that the City of Rockville amend its Comprehensive Master Plan so that it may participate in the Maryland Heritage Areas Program as a Certified Heritage Area. Since 1996, this state-wide program has provided more than \$18 million to local government agencies and non-profit organizations to support both community education programs and “bricks and mortar” improvement projects. The Master Plan amendment makes the City and such nonprofit organizations such as Peerless Rockville (provides programs on local history) and Stepping Stones Shelter (located in the historic Dawson Farmhouse) eligible to participate and apply for these special state grant funds.

I do recommend, however, that the proposed heritage area **boundaries be expanded** to include:

1. **Twinbrook Metro station** on the south (major public transportation center and a potential entry point for tourists, especially for access to Glenview and the Rock Creek Trail and Bethesda Trolley Trail).
2. **Twinbrook Parkway** to the county border on the east (major bus, automobile, and bike route to Glenview; major connection to Twinbrook Metro station; and provides link to the adjacent Rock Creek Trail and Quakers and Underground Railroad Heritage Area)
3. **Shady Grove Metro station** on the north (major public transportation center and a potential entry point for tourists, especially for access to the King Farm Farmstead).

By including these additional areas, Rockville will be better able to meet the goals of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, in particular:

To enhance the visitor appeal and enjoyment of the state’s history, culture, and natural environment, and scenic beauty by enhancing the overall ‘product’—the visitor experience.

To foster linkages among and between heritage attractions that encourage visitors to explore, linger, and sample the diverse offerings of the state’s distinctive regions.

To ensure an enjoyable and holistic experience, major gateways and routes to Rockville’s heritage destinations must be included so they can have signs for orientation or directions or have connecting paths to nearby biking and walking trails. If these major gateways and routes are excluded from the heritage area, state grant funds cannot be used along Twinbrook Parkway nor at the Twinbrook and Shady Grove stations—which would either disrupt the visitor experience at key points or require the City fill the gap.

Thank you for your consideration.

Max A. van Balgooy

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